Population of Elephants

45. SHRIMATI VEENA VARMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated population of elephants in the country and! in different reserves and sanctuaries, indicating the male and female population, as per the last three census/ enumerations;

(b) whether the population of elephants, especially that ot male elephants, has been declining fast;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to preserve this majestic animal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The elephant, being a long ranging animal, does not confine itself to the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries. Therefore, the population of elephants has been collated and compiled region-wise by different authorities in 1985 and 1989 and state-wise by Government of India for the first time in 1993. The comparative statement is annexed *(see* below). The 1985 and 1989 estimates were not made separately for male and female populations.

(b) and (c) Even though the lack of figures for male and female elephants during 1985 and 1989 does not allow arriving at the trends in their respective populations, the 1993 estimate has indicated low male : female ratio in some habitats in India. The reason for such ratios is suspected to be poaching of tuskers for their ivory.

(d) To preserve the majestic animal, the elephant have been provided with the maximum possible protection under existing laws by placing it in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. In order to discourage poachig of tuskers a ban has been placed on the trade in ivory. For international control, the elephant has been included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), which prohibits international trade among the signatory countries in ivory. In order to strengthen the protection of elephant populations and their natural habitats in India, the Government of India has launched Project Elephant in 1991-92 to provide assistance to the elephant range states.

Statement

SI. No.	Region & covered	1985 Estimate	1989 Estimate (Report)	1993 Estimate	
		A.E.S.G* Estimate	(R. Sukumar)	Govt, of India with NGOs & AESG	
I.	South India				
	Andhra			46-46(46)	
	Karnataka	(5775-7050)	(6750-8850)	5000-6000 (5500)	
	Kerala	(Nair, Sukumar, M. Gadgil)		3000-4000 (3500)	
	Tamil Nadu			2300-2500 (2400)	
Sub-Total		6412	6950 (+) 8.39%	11,446	+64.69%

Sl. No.	Region & covered	1985 Estimate	1989 Estimate (Report)	1993 Estimate
II.	Central India			
	Bihar	1635 (S.P. Shahi)	(1635-2335)	500-600 (550) 1500-2000 (1750)
	Orissa			
	Sub Total	1,635	1985 (+) 21.41%	2300 +15.86%
III.	NE India Arunachal Assam			2000-3000 (2500) 5000-6000 (5500)
	Meghalaya Nagaland Tripura West Bengal	(8705-122231) (DKLC)	(8525-11930)	2500-3000 (2750) 200-200 (200)
	Sub Total	10,468	12227 (+) 16.80%	10950 (-)10.44%
IV.	North India			
	Uttar Pradesh	445 (Gupta)	(725-975)	750-1000 (875)
	Sub Total	445	525 (+) 17.97%	875 +66.67%
	Total	18,960	21,687 (+) 14.38%	25,571 +17.91%

* AESC - Asian Elephant Specialist Group.

"Arctic India sales study on air pollution"

46. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minsiter of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per research conducted by the Arctic India Sales, it has been found that the quantum of indoor air pollution is 10 times higher than outdoor air pollution;

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether Govemment propose to conduct research in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps Govemment propsoe to take to provide pollution-free air?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD